

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
WORKSHOP SESSION - DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
OCTOBER 5, 2005

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION INCORPORATING A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) FOR METALS FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

DISCUSSION

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted an updated Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) on June 13, 1994. The Basin Plan was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on November 17, 1994 and by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on February 23, 1995.

On June 2, 2005, Los Angeles Water Board adopted [Resolution No. R05-006](#) to incorporate a TMDL for metals for the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. Segments of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries are on the federal Clean Water Act section 303(d) list (303(d) list) for copper, cadmium, lead, zinc, aluminum, and selenium. TMDLs are proposed for reaches on the 303(d) list as well as for reaches where recent data indicate additional impairments. Allocations for contributing sources are also proposed for upstream reaches and tributaries that drain to impaired reaches to ensure that metals do not contribute to an impairment elsewhere in the watershed.

TMDLs are developed for dry and wet weather separately. The transition between dry and wet weather occurs when flow in the river exceeds 500 cubic feet per second. Dry weather TMDLs are developed for copper, lead, and selenium. Wet weather TMDLs are developed for copper, lead, selenium, cadmium, and zinc. A TMDL is not required for aluminum. Dry and wet weather numeric water quality targets are defined by the water quality criteria established by the California Toxics Rule (CTR).

Dry weather TMDLs (loading capacities) are calculated as the product of the critical (mean) dry weather flow and the numeric target. Load allocations are calculated for direct atmospheric deposition to the river and for open space. Load allocations for direct atmospheric deposition are obtained from previous studies, and load allocations for open space are calculated as the product of the critical flow of the upper portion of tributaries that drain open space and the numeric targets for those tributaries. Dry weather wasteload allocations (both mass-based and concentration-based) apply to three publicly owned treatment works (POTWs): the Tillman, Glendale, and Burbank water reclamation plants. A grouped wasteload allocation applies to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), general industrial, and general construction permittees. This wasteload allocation is calculated by subtracting load allocations and wasteload allocations for POTWs from the total loading capacity. A zero wasteload allocation is assigned to all general industrial and general construction storm water permits for dry weather. The remaining wasteload allocations are shared between the MS4 and Caltrans permittees.

Wet weather TMDLs are calculated as the product of the daily storm volume and the numeric target. Wet weather load allocations are developed for direct atmospheric deposition (percent of the watershed comprised by surface water multiplied by the total loading capacity) and for open space (percent metals from open space multiplied by the total loading capacity and by the ratio of open space located outside the storm drain system to the total open space area). Wet weather wasteload allocations for POTWs are based on dry weather instream targets since POTWs exert the greatest influence over instream water quality during dry weather. During wet weather, the concentration-based dry weather wasteload allocations apply to POTWs. A grouped wasteload allocation applies to the MS4, Caltrans, general industrial, and general construction permittees. This is equal to the total loading capacity minus the load allocations for direct air deposition and open space and the wasteload allocations for POTWs.

The proposed implementation schedule for the MS4 and Caltrans permittees consists of a phased approach, with compliance to be achieved in prescribed percentages of the watershed until the entire watershed meets the wasteload allocations within 22 years.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board approve the amendment to the Basin Plan in accordance with the Staff Recommendation below?

FISCAL IMPACT

Los Angeles Water Board and State Water Board staff work associated with or resulting from this action can be accomplished within budgeted resources.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, Los Angeles Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Los Angeles Water Board Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for metals for the Los Angeles River and its tributaries as adopted in Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R05-006.
2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the amendment and administrative record for this action to OAL and the TMDL to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2005-

APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY
CONTROL PLAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES REGION
INCORPORATING A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL)
FOR METALS FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

WHEREAS:

1. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan) on June 13, 1994, which was approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) on November 17, 1994 and by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on February 23, 1995.
2. On June 2, 2005, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted Resolution No. R05-006 (Attachment) amending the Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for metals for the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.
3. The Los Angeles Water Board prepared documents and followed procedures satisfying environmental documentation requirements in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and other State laws and regulations.
4. The Los Angeles Water Board found that the additions of this amendment would result in no adverse effect on wildlife, and the amendment would be consistent with the State Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution No. 68-16) and federal antidegradation requirements.
5. The State Water Board finds that the Basin Plan amendment is in conformance with Water Code section 13240, which specifies that Regional Water Boards may revise Basin Plans, and section 13242, which requires a program of implementation of water quality standards. The State Water Board also finds that the TMDL as reflected in the Basin Plan amendment is consistent with the requirements of federal Clean Water Act section 303(d).
6. A Basin Plan amendment does not become effective until approved by State Water Board and until the regulatory provisions are approved by OAL. The TMDL must also be approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the amendment to the Los Angeles Water Board Basin Plan to incorporate a TMDL for metals for the Los Angeles River and its tributaries as adopted in Los Angeles Water Board Resolution No. R05-006.

2. Authorizes the Executive Director to transmit the amendment and administrative record for this action to OAL and the TMDL to USEPA for approval.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Board held on October 5, 2005.

Debbie Irvin
Clerk to the Board